**FRESNO, CA -** In the effort to meet the affordable housing needs of California families Congressman Jim Costa announced today (1/4/06) that the City of Wasco will receive \$1 million in HOME funds.

"Lending a helping hand to those in need is our job as community members," Costa stated. "The California Department of Housing and Community Development's Division of Financial Assistance offers the HOME Partnerships Program to cities and counties that do not receive HOME funds directly from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development," the Fresno lawmaker explained.

The funds received can be used not only for housing rehabilitation for single and multi family projects, but also for new housing construction. Costa concluded, "In the end the beneficiaries of these funds will be lower-income renters and owners."